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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Division of Insurance Issues Statement on President Obama's Announcement Regarding Health Insurance Plans

Denver – The Colorado Division of Insurance issued the following statement from Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar regarding President Obama's announcement today about cancelled insurance policies.

In Colorado, we share the same concerns the President expressed today about cancelled health insurance policies. The Division of Insurance (DOI) remains committed to providing access to coverage and consumer choice to Coloradoans.

In the coming days and weeks we will work closely with insurance carriers in Colorado regarding any changes that need to be made as a result of the President's comments. We will also work with consumers to alert them of any possible changes.

It is important to note that many carriers have already offered their members the choice of early renewal, allowing a current plan to carry into 2014. However, some carriers have chosen not to offer this option.

Since April of this year, the Division has issued bulletins on what health insurance carriers can and can't do in Colorado regarding existing plans. These bulletins provided guidance on what information must be included in letters to their members. Insurance carriers have also been required to make consumers aware of other options such as the possibility of buying insurance with another carrier, and shopping on Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado's health exchange.

While early renewal may be an option for some, we want to emphasize that anyone choosing that option will not have a health plan with the coverage and protections required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In the short term, it may be a reasonable choice, but it is important for people to understand some key facts about early renewal.

- To renew a plan, the carrier must offer such renewals. Not all health insurance carriers have offered early renewals to members, as some carriers have eliminated plans for 2014.
- Early renewal only applies to consumers who have these existing plans. People with no coverage or different coverage cannot buy an early renewal plan.
- Early renewal options can be offered to members in both the individual and small group markets.
- Whether or not members are offered early renewal, all consumers can visit Connect for Health Colorado at www.connectforhealthco.com and shop and compare plans that fit their health and financial needs.

We want people in Colorado to know that the Division of Insurance is a resource. Anyone with questions about any information provided by an insurance company can call us. The Division has trained experts ready to answer consumers' health insurance questions and provide easy-to-understand information. Call **303-894-7490** in the Denver area, or **1-800-930-3745** outside the metro area.

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The [Colorado Division of Insurance](#) regulates the insurance industry and assists consumers and other stakeholders with insurance issues.

[DORA](#) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado.

Consumer protection is our mission.